

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04088 071547Z

46

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9941

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4088

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH GREEK CATHOLIC PATRIARCH HAKIM

1. GREEK CATHOLIC PATRIARCH HAKIM TOLD ME TODAY THAT HE IS TRYING TO ARRANGE ANOTHER MEETING OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS SIMILAR TO THE ONE HE ARRANGED LAST OCTOBER. HE IS ENCOUNTERING A GOOD DEAL OF RELUCTANCE FROM MARONITE PATRIARCH KOREICHD WHOM HE SAW YESTERDAY AND WILL BE SEEING AGAIN AFTER HE FINISHES HIS ROUNDS HERE WHICH INCLUDE THE SUNNI MUFTI, SHEKH AKL DRUZE AND SHIA IMAM MOUSSA SADR. DIFFICULTY AS ALWAYS IS WHO SHOULD VISIT WHOM. PATRIARCH KOREICHE IS WORRIED HIS FOLLOWERS WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND IF HE WENT TO VISIT THE MOSLEMS. MOSLEMS (AND DRUZE) CANNOT EASILY COME TO MARONITE TERRITORY, HAKIM ADMITTED HE MAY NOT SUCCEED, IN WHICH CASE HE WILL CONTINUE ON HIS WAY TO DAMASCUS WHERE HE HAS MUCH BUSINESS RELATED TO HIS OWN CHURCH.

2. I ENCOURAGED HIM TO KEEP TRYING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHRISTIANS, MOSLEMS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, GREEK ORTHODOX, MEETINGS, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT04088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: AD: SECRETARY
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840086-2130
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760582/aaaacsckr.tel
Line Count: 47
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH GREEK CATHOLIC PATRIARCH HAKIM
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE, US, MARONITES, (BROWN, L DEAN), (HAKIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006